



Arizona School Facilities Board

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www.sfb.state.az.us

"This is absolutely amazing. There isn't anything bigger that I know of in the United States than what you are doing here in Arizona."

**Alan November
Senior Partner
Renaissance Learning**

"These technologies integrated in the learning process will unquestionably result in improved academic achievement for the students in Arizona."

**Dr. Dale Mann
Managing Director
Interactive, Inc.**

"I look forward to the day when all students in Arizona, regardless of where they live, will be able to connect with all the resources available."

**The Honorable
Jane Dee Hull,
Governor of Arizona**

Technology Initiatives

The Students FIRST law requires that the Arizona School Facilities Board address technology in its minimum adequacy guidelines for public school districts. Accordingly, the board adopted a three-part plan to address educational technology, which includes bringing the computer to student ratio to 1:8 in every district, networking and Internet connectivity, and an application service provider.

Computers

In 2000, the School Facilities Board purchased over 36,000 computers for Arizona's public school districts at a total cost of \$44.2 million. Each school district now has a minimum of one multimedia computer for every eight students. All SFB-funded computers are multimedia workstations equipped at minimum with Pentium III 600 MHz Intel processors and either Windows 98, NT, or 2000 or Apple 350 processors with OS9. Each computer has at minimum 64 MB RAM and 20X CD ROMs. Additionally, each computer contains productivity and antivirus software. In the future, districts will be encouraged to purchase thin client terminals so they can maximize their technological capacity and minimize their financial obligation.

Networking & Internet Connectivity

In February 2001, the board approved a \$100 million networking and Internet connectivity project that will substantially improve and support state-of-the-art networking technology to the desktop. Qwest Communications serves as the general contractor providing all communication cabling and associated infrastructure. The networking project will position schools to take full advantage of emerging educational technologies and services that are transforming the process of learning. Qwest will connect all network capable computers in every school to a Local Area Network (LAN). All schools within a district will be placed on a Wide Area Network (WAN) that has a single district aggregation point, and the LAN/WAN will be connected to the Internet with broadband connectivity. The Internet and LAN infrastructure is capable of supporting a converged network (voice, video, and data to each networked computer). The networking infrastructure will include 100 MB (expandable to one Gigabit) to the classroom and 10/100 MB to each networked computer. The project includes switches and routers, as well as cache engines and content managers to provide speed and breadth of curriculum material over the Internet. The project also provides for filtering software and firewalls, three years of on-site maintenance and monitoring, and a 24-hour support line. All school districts are scheduled to be networked by Summer 2002.

Application Service Provider

In August 2001, the board awarded a \$27.9 million application service provider (ASP) contract to Cox Business Services, which formed the Cox Education Network. Major providers in the Network include KPMG Consulting, LearningStation, and Ensynch. The Network will provide the industry's most expansive collection of educational tools and resources for teachers and students throughout Arizona. The ASP will enable schools to access productivity software, over 250 educational titles, and communications software. These resources will be available over the Internet and can be accessed by students, teachers, and parents from school and from home - anytime night or day. An additional 7,000 educational titles will be available for purchase by districts at discounted rates. The ASP will host school and teacher websites, e-mail services for staff and students, portfolio storage for student work, and support services to all schools and students. Additionally, the project provides for professional teacher training by ASSET, 20 Cisco Academies, and multiple Microsoft-Authorized Academic Training Programs to be placed throughout the state. All schools will have access to the ASP by Summer 2002; service, warranty, and free access to the ASP are included until June 30, 2005.